

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05

SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 XMB-02 /103 W

-----131045Z 075096 /14

R 122141Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3451

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: PROPOSALS FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORT
PROTECTION

REF: STATE 105039; OTTAWA A-150

1. TARIFF BOARD IS INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY OF GOC WHICH REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT THROUGH MINISTER OF FINANCE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TARIFF MATTERS. BOARD'S REPORT ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WAS TABLED IN HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR INFORMATION OF PARLIAMENT ONLY. GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY CONSIDER BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECIDE WHETHER TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN WHOLE OR IN PART. IF GOC DOES PROPOSE TARIFF CHANGES, PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL IS ALMOST A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. NORMALLY PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES ARE PUT FORWARD TO PARLIAMENT WHEN GENERAL BUDGET IS BROUGHT DOWN (LAST BUDGET WAS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 31) BUT THEY COULD BE INTRODUCED

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AS SEPARATE BILLS.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY SEVERAL SOURCES THAT GOC, EVEN AT WORKING LEVEL, HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO FOCUS ON TARIFF BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROBABLY WILL NOT BEGIN TO DO SO UNTIL AFTER BOARD'S COMPANION REPORT ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IS TABLED IN COMMONS,

PROBABLY LATER IN YEAR. WE UNDERSTAND THIS SECOND REPORT IS READY IN ENGLISH VERSION BUT WILL NOT BE RE-LEASED UNTIL TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH; TRANSLATION IS PROCEEDING SLOWLY DUE TO TECHNICAL TERMINOLOGY. THIS SUGGESTS THAT ANY TARIFF CHANGES MAY BE SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT GOC WILL DECIDE TO DO. AGRICULTURE MINISTER WHELAN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE PUSHING FOR PROTECTION FOR FARMERS BUT OTHERS ARE MUCH CONCERNED WITH POTENTIAL INFLATIONARY IMPACT OF INCREASED TARIFFS AS WELL AS BROADER INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. GOC OFFICIALS ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF GATT IMPLICATIONS. IN EVENT OF TARIFF CHANGES, GOC WOULD INTEND TO ENTER INTO ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS; IN LAST ARTICLE XXVIII(5) NOTIFICATION IT RESERVED RIGHT TO MODIFY SCHEDULES ON ITEMS BEING INVESTIGATED BY TARIFF BOARD.

4. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT AGENDA FOR BERGLAND/WHELAN MEETING PROPOSED BY AGRICULTURE CANADA INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF TARIFF BOARD REPORT BY WHELAN BUT THAT EXTAFF DELETED ITEM ON BASIS GOC HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED POSITION ON REPORT.

5. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE FOR U.S. SIDE TO ATTEMPT TO INITIATE ANY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF REPORT AT BERGLAND/WHELAN MEETING. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT APPROPRIATE WRITTEN EXPRESSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CONCERN BE CONVEYED TO GOC IN NEAR FUTURE. ONCE TARIFF BOARD'S REPORT ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IS TABLED AND GOC BEGINS TO DEVELOP POSITION ON INTERAGENCY BASIS, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER MORE DETAILED APPROACHES TO CALL ATTENTION U.S. TRADE INTERESTS. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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